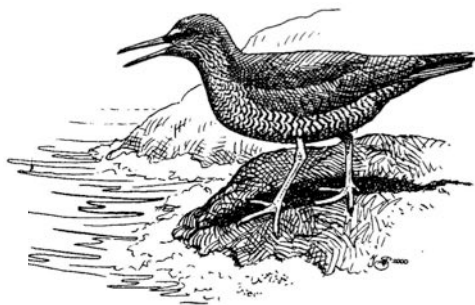


Wandering Tattler

September 2021
Volume 71, Number 1



The Voice of SEA AND SAGE AUDUBON, an Orange County Chapter of the National Audubon Society

Accessible, Inclusive Birding

Gail Richards, President

Sea and Sage is continuing our efforts to expand our outreach to our entire community and to be more inclusive. To this end, we have joined other Audubon chapters in supporting Birdability, a new non-profit organization dedicated to assuring that birding is for everybody, including those with disabilities.

Birdability was born out of a vision from Virginia Rose, who uses a wheelchair for mobility due to a childhood horseback-riding accident. Virginia has a passion for birding, and through her local chapter, Travis Audubon Society in Austin, Texas, she started exploring local trails and recording details about their accessible features. Her vision expanded significantly when National Audubon agreed to establish and provide start-up support for a website and map of the U.S. that allows birding sites to be identified and surveyed for features important to those with physical challenges. I invite you to look at Birdability.org to see the many accessibility resources this site offers and to explore the map.

A team of Sea and Sage members has already surveyed more than 40 of the top 100 eBird hotspots in Orange County. Details for each site include an overall accessibility rating, plus specifics on parking, restrooms, trail surfaces and slopes, tactile signs, audio recordings, and more. The information is included on the website map. Enlarge the map to the Southern California area and click on any of the yellow diamonds to see location details. Sea and Sage is scheduling our first accessible birding field trip on Saturday, October 9th. We'll be visiting the San Jacinto Wildlife Area in Riverside County, which is an excellent location for birding from your car. We'll provide an expert leader. Following a morning of birding, we will enjoy a picnic lunch together before heading home. The October 9th Birdability field trip article is now posted on our webpage and will also be in the October Tattler.

Volunteer Birdability Captains have been recruited throughout the U.S. to coordinate local activities with the national Birdability effort. Our local captain is Sharon Rockwell, who is available for questions and can be reached at srockwell@writeme.com.

General Meeting - Online Presentation

Friday, September 17 - 7:00 PM

Via Zoom

"Quiz Night"

presented by Sylvia Gallagher

Sylvia Ranney Gallagher was born and raised in Santa Ana, then went to Occidental College (BS), Purdue University (MS) and, after ten years of high school chemistry teaching, UCLA (PhD) for further education, all in chemistry. It was while she was at UCLA and feeling cooped up in the lab doing some rather routine procedures that had to be done every 20 minutes that her mother began feeding her backyard birds and Sylvia began wondering what they were. Figuring out those birds, and others, during those 20-minute breaks was the first step in a life-long obsession.



photo by Doua Lithaow

She was introduced to Sea and Sage by birding weekly with Carolyn Honer and Fern Zimmerman, both very active members. Before long she was Christmas Count Co-Chair, with Lois Loughran. After a few years, she resigned from that to run the Orange County Breeding Bird Atlas Project (data gathered 1985-1990). From 1980 to the present, her main love has always been her Birding Skills Workshops, visual and aural classes for adults or mature teens of all skill levels. In 1986, she married Jim Gallagher, and for the rest of his life they trailed throughout the US and Canada, with Jim photographing and Sylvia recording birds. You will see and hear some of each in tonight's program.

Meeting room opens at **6:30 PM**. Join us for some **virtual games (e.g. bird trivia, bird ID)** prior to the 7 PM meeting. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85763513452>

See you there (virtually). If this link isn't working for you, try Meeting ID: 857 6351 3452.

Need Help? email Jonathan Aguayo at: jonathan.aguayo@psomas.com

Jonathan Aguayo, Programs Chair

Conservation News

Susan Sheakley, Conservation Chair



Our next '4th Tuesday' Conservation Lecture is planned for Tuesday September 28th. Please join us!

'4th Tues.' Conservation Lecture

Tuesday, Sept. 28th - 7:00 pm

by Zoom

Check-in begins at 6:30

"Small Mammal Conservation in Southern California Sage Scrub Communities"

Presented by Rachel Y. Chock, Ph.D,



Rachel with a Pacific Pocket Mouse

Coastal sage scrub and alluvial fan sage scrub are critical habitat for many of Southern California's endemic species, including the endangered Pacific pocket mouse and San Bernardino kangaroo rat. Rachel will discuss her research on competitive interactions and habitat use and how these are helping to inform conservation translocation and management strategies for these species.

Rachel completed her Ph.D. at UCLA in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, where she was a two-time recipient of the Sea and Sage Audubon's Bloom-Hays Grant. Rachel is currently a Postdoctoral Associate with the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance.

Please join us!

Registration opens on Sept. 1st through the homepage on our website - look for '4th Tues' Conservation Lecture Sept. 28th , under 'What's New' or under 'Conservation'.

OC Western Snowy Plover & California Least Tern Survey Sept. 19-26, 2021



Snowy Plover on the beach – by Bruce Aird

The next quarterly Snowy Plover/Least Tern Survey is scheduled during the window dates of September 19 thru 26, 2021. If you have been trained at one of our survey training classes and you would like to participate, please contact Cheryl Egger at OCSNPLSurvey@gmail.com to sign up for your favorite beach segment. She will attempt to give you your first choice, but please submit two choices with your request (Check our Snowy Plover webpage for the available beaches).

Survey Training: For those who have not had the training, we have planned two "virtual" Zoom training sessions prior to the survey for you to choose from. The trainings are scheduled for:

- Saturday, August 28th, 9:00-10:30 AM - OR
- Wednesday, September 1st, 6:30-8:00 PM

Prior registration is required for the training. Please contact Cheryl Egger at OCSNPLSurvey@gmail.com. More information can be found on our website at <https://www.seaandsageaudubon.org>

Thank you to all of our continuing and new surveyors, for your support of two local listed species!

—Cheryl Egger

Chapter News & Announcements

Sea and Sage Audubon Society's mission is to protect birds, other wildlife, and their habitats through education, citizen science, research, and public policy advocacy.



Reopening Audubon House and Calling for Volunteers



We are hopeful that Audubon House will be back open for business in September. When we reopen, there will be a few new rules, including no more than 4 visitors at one time and the requirements to wear a mask and wash

your hands or use hand sanitizer before browsing in the gift shop.

In that spirit, please meet the new Volunteer Co-ordinators, Dev Sellin and Paula Monroe. Dev has been a member of Sea and Sage for 20+ years and before the pandemic shut us down, was an AH volunteer for about 1 ½ years. Paula has been an AH volunteer for about 5 years, filling shifts here and there and has also been assisting with the Bird Seasons project.

—Susan Sheakley

A message from our new Volunteers

Co-Coordinators: We would like to thank Susan Sheakley and Joan McCauley for their leadership and support in helping us transition into this new role. We also want to give a shout out and thank you to Rebecca Craft and her daughter who have generously given their time and hard work to clean AH. Much dust has miraculously disappeared due to their efforts! We give a big welcome to Catherine Steinberg, our new Gift Shop Manager, and look forward to seeing her ideas and projects.

New volunteers are needed and welcomed! We offer excellent training and flexible schedules, so if you are interested, please contact Dev, Paula, or Susan Sheakley.

—Paula Monroe and Dev Sellin

Orange County Spring Count Report

The OCSC started April 1st and ran through May 31st. We had a phenomenal turnout this year!

- 1145 eBird checklists were shared with Sea and Sage.
- The checklists covered 159 locations throughout OC.
- The checklists showed a total of 268 countable species.
- 142,000 individual birds were counted.

—Darrell Wilson

Social Get-Togethers

Using Zoom, we will resume our Social GetTogethers on a limited basis this fall. Check the website for updates and to register for the continuing Sea and Sage Reading Group, which meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 1:00 PM. Book selections are listed on the website.

—Chris Byrd

Bloom-Hays Ecological Research Grants

Seven excellent student proposals were selected for funding this year by the Sea and Sage Science Committee. The objective of the Bloom-Hays Ecological Research Grant is to advance ecological research, particularly research related to avian species and the natural communities upon which they depend, by providing funds or supplies to support research activities benefitting native species and habitats in Southern California. Sea & Sage Audubon awards \$10,000 in grant funding every spring.

Joseph Curti, University of California, Los Angeles (PhD), \$2,500. *Assessing Barriers to California Quail Gene Flow in the Santa Monica Mountains.*

Caryn Iwanaga, University of California, Riverside (Undergraduate), \$1,200. *Campus Hill Restoration Research Project.*

Alexandria Koedel, California Polytechnic State University, Pomona (MS), \$1,300. *Genetic Polymorphism in Candidate Genes of Resident and Migratory Turkey Vultures.*

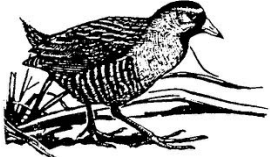
Stephanie Calloway, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo (MS), \$2,500. *Saving a Rare Plant Species to Increase Seabird Nesting Habitat on Anacapa Island.*

Rachel Bockrath, California Polytechnic State University, Pomona (MS), \$1,000. *Avian Diversity and Foraging Behavior in a Heterogeneous Urban-Agroecosystem.*

Joanna Tang, University of California, Santa Barbara (PhD), \$1,000. *Ecotypic Variation in Vernal Pool Communities.*

Nina Vinuti, University of California, Davis (MS), \$500. *Can Injured Trees Keep Up With Climate Change? Assessing the Effects of Fire Injury on Conifer Fecundity in Sierra Nevada Forests.*

—Amber Heredia



Sea and Sage Audubon Society
Birds of Southern California
 An Introductory Birding Skills Workshop
presented by Sylvia Gallagher



Sea and Sage Audubon Society is again offering a ten-week workshop on bird identification for beginning birders or those with a small amount of knowledge, which is most likely disorganized. Professional biologists whose expertise is not in ornithology or whose studies have been confined to just a few species or places will find this workshop helpful, too. Each session will feature about 15 common birds of a particular local habitat on the coastal side of the mountains. With the use of printed worksheets and photos from the Sea and Sage Library, Sylvia Gallagher will help you to learn to identify those birds. In the process, you'll also be introduced to a variety of other topics, such as bird families, plumages and molts, bird topography, distribution and habitat preferences, behavior, vocalizations, the birding literature, birding ethics and etiquette, etc. A second ten-week workshop on Bird Sounds and Their Meaning will immediately follow this one.

The topics to be covered in the series are:

1. Birds of neighborhoods.
2. Birds of playing fields and parking lots.
3. Birds of mudflats and shallow water.
4. Birds of the ocean shore.
5. Birds of the open country.
6. Birds of prey.
- 7,8. Birds of the streamside woodland (in 2 parts).
9. Birds of bays, lakes, and marshes.



Each person will attend ten weekly meetings via Zoom. For these, you'll need a computer and good internet access. Each person should have his/her own computer. You will choose one of these three sections to attend:

- Wed. evenings: 7:00 - 10:00 p.m., Oct. 6 - Dec. 15, except Nov. 24
- Thurs. mornings: 9:00 a.m. - noon, Oct. 7- Dec. 16 except Nov. 25
- Thurs. evenings: 7:00 - 10:00 p.m., Oct. 7 - Dec. 16 except Nov. 25

Four half-day field trips to Orange County locations will be scheduled, and you may choose Saturdays or Mondays. The trips will be on Saturday or Monday mornings (your choice) following the third, fifth, seventh, and ninth weeks of class. More information will come later.

To be on the safe side and to accommodate people who don't live close-by, this year's workshops will once again be presented remotely with Zoom. We expect to have back in-person classes next year with probably no Zoom.

The maximum enrollment for each section is 22. If any section does not have at least 12 people enrolled by Sept. 27 it will be canceled. Reserve early though, because some sections may fill quickly. A donation of \$120 (or more) per person is requested, if you can afford it. Enclose at least half of it with your reservation. Installment plan possible for those who can't afford it right now.

The required book for the workshop is the **7th edition** (no other!) of the *National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America* by Dunn and Alderfer. Recommended, but not required, is *Birds of Southern California* by Garrett, Dunn, and Small. Since Sea and Sage's Audubon House bookstore may still be closed due to COVID, you might need to purchase these books from an on-line book seller (not Sea and Sage) or in some other fashion. As workshop time approaches, call Audubon House, (949) 261-7963, to see if they are open and stocked with the books. If so, the price will no doubt be quite competitive.

Send your reservation for this workshop, **postmarked no earlier than Sept. 7** (2-day penalty for early reservations), to "Introductory Workshop, Sylvia Gallagher, 21562 Kaneohe Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92646." Priority for placement in sections will be based on postmark date. **Enclose a LONG (4" x 9½") self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE). Confirmations will be mailed Sept. 29**, including preliminary information.

Shortly after the confirmations are mailed, you will also receive, this time via email, an access code to a portion of Sea and Sage's Dropbox where you will find the workshop's introductory pictures plus the printed material in .pdf form. **YOU WILL HAVE TO PRINT OUT THE TEXTUAL MATERIAL.** Read the document entitled "Read first," the last one in the list, for further information.

If you have questions, contact Sylvia at sjrgallagher@yahoo.com (preferred) or 714-962-8990. If you phone and get no answer, don't leave a message; write an email instead.

Class Enrollment & Oct-Nov Field Trips

Fall Pelagic Trip out of Dana Point ® SUN: Oct. 3rd, 6:30 am – 3:00 pm

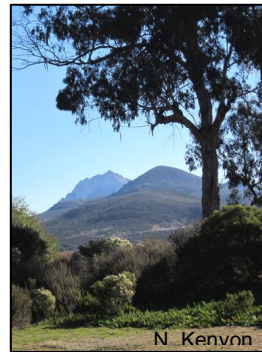


Our pelagic trips meet at the Ocean Institute in Dana Point at 6:30 AM; they are 8 hour trips which go along the coast and then out to the 14 mile bank where many of the good birds are, then out to the oil rigs to search for boobies, then back to the coast and south to Dana Point, returning to the dock at 3:00 pm. Our trip will be led by Jon Dunn, an experienced pelagic birder and trip leader, along with his 4 co-leaders: Tom Benson, Robert McNab, Bruce Aird and Steve Morris. Target Birds: Black-vented, Sooty & Pink-footed Shearwaters; Black & Least Storm-Petrels; Cassins & Rhinoceros Auklets; Parasitic & Pomarine Jaegers, Boobies, a variety of shorebirds, terns, gulls, along with some whales & dolphins.

Pre-payment is mandatory; the trip costs \$65 per person. Print out the 2 trip waivers from the pelagic trips on our webpage & fill them out. **For reservations**, make check payable to SEA & SAGE AUDUBON and mail it to: Pelagic Trip, c/o Nancy Kenyon, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612. *Be sure to include info on your Covid vaccine which is required for all of our field trips this year.* These trips fill quickly so it's advantageous to sign up for them in advance.

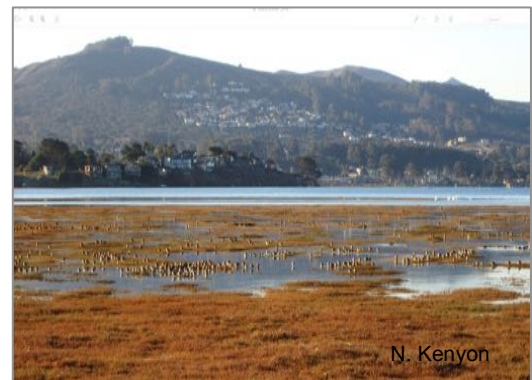


Plan Ahead for the Morro Bay Trip! ® FRI-SUN: November 5-7, Fri: 3:15 pm



Come join us in Morro Bay, winter home to thousands of shorebirds, many species of raptors and passerines. Our leader, Kaaren Perry, has planned a wonderful weekend of birding and exploration. We suggest you plan to arrive on Friday. We have reservations for a leisurely harbor cruise Fri. afternoon. That evening you may wish to dine at one of the many dockside restaurants in the town.

The next two mornings we will meet early in order to have plenty of time to bird the local hot spots. We will be looking for shorebirds, do a little sea watching and bird some of the very bird rich riparian and woodland locations nearby. After lunch on Sat. and Sun. you will be free to do a little exploring on your own. (Additional trip info on webpage.) Trip fee is \$45 plus \$16 to cover the additional harbor cruise and port fee. Advance reservations are needed; trip is limited to 12 people. Make check payable to Sea & Sage Audubon & mail to: Morro Bay FT, c/o Nancy Kenyon, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612. *Be sure to include info on your Covid vaccine which is required for all of our field trips this year along with wearing a mask.*



Enrollment form – Introductory Birding Skills Workshop – Fall 2021



Names of all participants _____

Address(es) _____

City _____ ZIP _____ Phone(s) _____

E-mail(s) _____

Check (or rank) your choice of section for the Zoom **workshop meetings**:

WED. p.m. ____ THURS. a.m. ____ THURS. p.m. ____

SASE enclosed? ____



Field Trips

Nancy Kenyon, Field Trip Chair



ALL TRIPS WILL REQUIRE ADVANCE RESERVATIONS ® DUE TO COVID RESTRICTIONS.

Everyone signing up for a trip must provide information on their Covid vaccination (type and dates). I will keep a record of the vaccines so that you only have to provide that info once if you are signing up for several trips. **People who have not received their Covid vaccination(s) will not be allowed on any trip this year. Everyone must wear a mask on the trips. Each trip will have a participant limit to allow for social distancing. We need to make sure that our trips are safe for everyone; otherwise, we will have to cancel them. When making a reservation, please do so by email if at all possible.**

For additional information or questions, contact Nancy Kenyon, Field Trip Chair, nancykenyon@cox.net or 949-786-3160. (See additional trip info on the following page.)

Nature Table at SJWS

SAT: September 4th, 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

While naturalist-led Nature Walks continue to be on hold during the pandemic, we are offering an interim program for visitors to the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. On the first Saturday of the month, the Nature Walk naturalists will host a nature display table underneath the tall shady sycamore tree next to the Audubon House. From 9:00 - 10:30 AM, visitors to the marsh can talk with naturalists who will share nature tips of what to watch for during self-guided exploration. The display will include taxidermy specimens, identification tips, fun facts, and a take-home craft for young children. Nature Table topics vary depending on the season. Come visit with our Nature Walk naturalists, learn about birds and other wildlife, and then walk the wildlife sanctuary trails in search of what was on display at the Nature Table. It's free for everyone, no reservations are needed, and masks are required until further notice. See page 11 for directions to the SJWS.

Bird Walk at the SJWS ®

SUN: September 12th – 8:00 AM

This trip is restricted to 12 participants; you MUST make reservations ahead of time in order to participate. Jeff will have a list of the 12 people who signed up; walk-ons will not be accepted! Join Jeff Bray for a bird walk around the ponds of the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine at 8:00 am. While many of the ducks and shorebirds have come back from their breeding grounds up north, there may still some of the summer species around. If you're lucky, you may even see some of the more uncommon birds at the sanctuary which usually hide when people are around, such as the Greater Roadrunner or the Least Bittern. The walk will meet by the front porch of Audubon House. Children under the age of 11 must be accompanied by an adult. **Directions** on page 11.

Leader: Jeff Bray

Bolsa Chica Bird Walk ®

THURS: September 16th – 8:00 AM

This trip is restricted to 12 participants; you MUST make reservations ahead of time in order to participate. Vic will have a list of the 12 people; walk-ons will not be accepted! Come prepared for a great morning of birding

to check out the interesting variety of birds here. **Bring** binoculars, a field guide, and a scope if you have one. We will **meet** at the playground in Harriett Wieder Reg. Park. **Directions:** From PCH, turn inland on Seapoint St. Follow Seapoint 1 mile to Garfield Ave. and make a U-turn. Entrance to the playground will be on the right side in 0.25 miles. *Leader: Vic Leipzig*

Carbon Canyon Reg. Park Bird Walk ®

SUN: September 19th – 8:00 AM

This trip is restricted to 12 participants; you MUST make reservations ahead of time in order to participate. Samuel will have a list of the 12 people; walk-ons will not be accepted! Join us on a bi-monthly birdwalk to this bird-rich and beautiful park nestled in the Chino Hills of north Orange County. The park hosts a wide variety of habitats, including riparian woodland, oak-walnut woodland, coastal sage scrub, and suburban parkland/green space. In total, over 190 species have been seen here, and depending on the time of year, the park hosts bird species such as Hooded Mergansers, Bell's Vireos, Lark Sparrows, Rock Wren, and Lawrence's Goldfinch, as well as all of our common migrant warblers, flycatchers, sparrows, orioles, and others. Birders of all skill levels are welcome. **Directions:** Meet at the picnic tables near the entrance kiosk. Entrance fee is \$5 if you don't have an OC Parks Pass. (4442 Carbon Canyon Rd, Brea) Driving directions will be provided to those who make advance reservations. *Leader: Samuel Bressler*

Upper Newport Bay Bird Walk ®

SUN: September 26th - 8:00 AM

This trip is restricted to 12 participants; you MUST make reservations ahead of time in order to participate. Mark will have a list of the 12 people; walk-ons will not be accepted! Join Mark for a monthly bird walk in Upper Newport Bay to check out the seasonal shorebirds, ducks, grebes, herons & egrets, etc. that frequent the bay. Bring binoculars, a field guide, and a scope if you have one. **We will meet** in the Big Canyon parking lot in Newport Beach. This is easily reached from Jamboree. Take San Joaquin Hills Road west toward the bay where it intersects with Back Bay Drive. Turn right on Back Bay Dr. and follow it to the Big Canyon parking lot on your left. *Leader: Mark Kincheloe*

Field Trip Schedule for 2021-2022

ALL TRIPS REQUIRE ADVANCE RESERVATIONS DUE TO COVID RESTRICTIONS. Each trip will have a participant limit. Everyone signing up for a trip must provide information on their Covid vaccination (type and dates). **People who are not fully vaccinated will not be allowed on any trip this year. Everyone must wear a mask on the trips. We are limiting the number of participants on each trip to allow for social distancing. We need to make sure that our trips are safe for everyone; otherwise, we will have to cancel them. When making a reservation, please do so by email if at all possible.** For additional information or questions, contact Nancy Kenyon, Field Trip Chair, at nancykenyon@cox.net or 949-786-3160.

SEPTEMBER 2021

Sat 04 Monthly Nature Table at the SJWS
Sun 12 Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS
Thurs 16 Bi-Monthly Bolsa Chica Bird Walk
Sun 19 Bi-Monthly Carbon Canyon Bird Walk
Sun 26 Monthly Bird Walk at UNB

OCTOBER 2021

Sat 02 Monthly Nature Table at the SJWS
Sun 03 Fall Pelagic Trip out of Dana Point (\$) ~~Cancelled~~
Sat 09 Birdability Trip
Sun 10 Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS
Sun 17 Bi-Monthly Anaheim Coves Park Bird Walk
Sun 31 Monthly Bird Walk at UNB

NOVEMBER 2021

Fr-Sun 5-7 Morro Bay Trip (\$) ~~Cancelled~~
Sat 06 Monthly Nature Table at the SJWS
Sun 07 Hawk & Owl Banding at O'Neill Reg. Park
Sun 14 Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS
Thurs 18 Bi-Monthly Bolsa Chica Bird Walk
Sun 21 Bi-Monthly Carbon Canyon Bird Walk
Sun 28 Monthly Bird Walk at UNB

DECEMBER 2021

Sat 04 Monthly Nature Table at the SJWS
Sun 12 Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS
Sun 19 Northeastern (Inland) CBC
~~Sun 19 Anaheim Coves Park cancelled due to CBC~~
Sun 26 San Juan Capistrano CBC
~~Sun 26 Bird Walk at UNB cancelled due to CBC~~

JANUARY 2022

Sat 01 Monthly Nature Table at the SJWS
Sun 02 Coastal CBC
Sat 08 Winter Pelagic Trip out of Dana Point (\$) ~~Cancelled~~
Sun 09 Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS
Sat 15 CBC Specialties Trip
Sun 16 Bi-Monthly Carbon Canyon Bird Walk
Thurs 20 Bi-Monthly Bolsa Chica Bird Walk
Sun 30 Monthly Bird Walk at UNB

FEBRUARY 2022

Sat 05 Monthly Nature Table at the SJWS
Sa-Su 5-6 Salton Sea Weekend Trip (\$) ~~Cancelled~~
Sun 13 Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS

FEBRUARY 2022 - continued

Sun 20 Bi-Monthly Anaheim Coves Park Bird Walk
Sat 26 San Jacinto Wildlife Area
Sun 27 Monthly Bird Walk at UNB

MARCH 2022

Sat 05 Monthly Nature Table at the SJWS
Sun 13 Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS
Thurs 17 Bi-Monthly Bolsa Chica Bird Walk
Sun 20 Bi-Monthly Carbon Canyon Bird Walk
Sat 27 Monthly Bird Walk at UNB

APRIL 2022

Sat 02 Monthly Nature Table at the SJWS
Sa-Su 2-3 Eastern Sierra Weekend Trip (\$) ~~Cancelled~~
Sun 10 Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS
Sun 17 Bi-Monthly Anaheim Coves Park Bird Walk
Sun 24 Big Morongo Preserve & vicinity (\$) ~~Cancelled~~
Sun 24 Monthly Bird Walk at UNB

MAY 2022

Sun 01 Spring Pelagic Trip out of Dana Point (\$) ~~Cancelled~~
Sat 07 Monthly Nature Table at the SJWS
Sun 08 Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS
Sun 15 Bi-Monthly Carbon Canyon Bird Walk
Thurs 19 Bi-Monthly Bolsa Chica Bird Walk
Sun 29 Monthly Bird Walk at UNB

JUNE 2022

Sat 04 Monthly Nature Table at the SJWS
Sun 12 Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS
Sun 19 Bi-Monthly Anaheim Coves Park Bird Walk
Sa-Su 25-26 Mammoth Lakes Trip (\$) ~~Cancelled~~
Sun 26 Monthly Bird Walk at UNB

JULY 2022

Sat 02 Monthly Nature Table at the SJWS
Sun 10 Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS
Sun 17 Bi-Monthly Carbon Canyon Bird Walk
Thurs 21 Bi-Monthly Bolsa Chica Bird Walk
Sun 31 Monthly Bird Walk at UNB

AUGUST 2022

Sat 06 Monthly Nature Table at the SJWS
Sun 14 Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS
Sun 21 Bi-Monthly Anaheim Coves Park Bird Walk
Sun 28 Monthly Bird Walk at UNB

This year ALL TRIPS will require advance reservations. Those trips marked with a (\$) have a trip fee. Everyone must provide info on their Covid vaccination (type & dates) or a photo of the vaccine card when they sign up for a trip. I will keep a record of the vaccinations so that you only have to provide that info once if you are signing up for several trips. **DIRECTIONS FOR MAKING TRIP RESERVATIONS:** If there is a trip fee, make check payable to SEA & SAGE AUDUBON and mail it to: Nancy Kenyon, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612. Be sure to indicate the name & date of the trip AND your phone number AND email address so that trip info & confirmation can be sent to you. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope ONLY if you do not have email. All trip participants will be required to sign a trip waiver releasing Sea & Sage from liability. A copy of the waiver is on our chapter webpage in the Field Trips section. No refunds for trip cancellations will be given less than 30 days prior to the date of trip unless someone is found to fill the vacancy. Usually I have a waiting list for these trips.

Orange County Rarities

by Samuel Bressler



To report a RARE or UNUSUAL bird, or to receive reports from other birders about rare or unusual bird sightings here in Orange County, send an email to: OrangeCountyBirding+subscribe@groups.io

Spring Migration

To the frustration of local birders, the latter half of the 2021 spring migration did not produce a large quantity of unexpected species, and those that did appear were overwhelmingly the more common vagrants that can be expected to show up in small numbers in every year.

Black Swifts were found at Huntington Central Park on May 21, and at San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary from May 22-23. The **Calliope Hummingbird** that delighted birders in Huntington Central Park for over a month remained until May 2, while a second individual visited a private residence on May 7. Late **Rufous Hummingbirds** were present at Laguna Niguel Regional Park through May 9, and at a private residence in Rancho Santa Margarita until May 11. *Selasphorus* hummingbirds observed between late spring and the end of the year should be presumed to be Allen's Hummingbirds without detailed photo documentation.



Little Blue Heron

A **Little Blue Heron** at Upper Newport Bay continued through May 14, while a pair of **Cattle Egrets** were at San

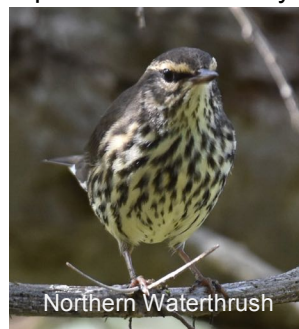
Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary on May 7. A **Gull-Billed Tern** was present at Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve on May 1, while a migrating **Black Tern** was photographed offshore on May 14. At least one **Franklin's Gull** was reported at Doheny State Beach between May 8 and 13. The **Masked Booby** continued at the Dana Point Jetties until at least May 27th. An immature **Bald Eagle** hung around Huntington Central Park until May 3.

Two migrant flycatchers of note were reported in the county. A **Dusky Flycatcher** was documented at Huntington Central Park from May 1-3. Meanwhile, an **Eastern Kingbird** was reported at Mason Regional Park on May 11 was a one-day wonder and the undisputed high point of spring migration; this was Orange County's 11th confirmed record of this species.

A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was found in Huntington Central Park on May 4th. Meanwhile, **Purple Martins** were observed in flight over San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary on May 23 and over Huntington Central

Park on May 19, while **Bank Swallows** were found at San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary from May 15-17. A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** at Huntington Central Park on May 15 was an unusually late record for the coast; this species' breeding range in the county is limited to our foothills and mountains. A **Green-tailed Towhee** at Huntington Central Park on May 2nd was unusually late.

Yellow-headed Blackbirds were present at several spots in the county throughout much of May, including at the restored Parkside wetlands near Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, and the Orange County Great Park. The only vagrant warblers reported in the county included a pair of **Northern**



Northern Waterthrush

Waterthrush through May 2nd, and an **Ovenbird** from May 23-26, both at Huntington Central Park. Finally, rare cardinalids were represented by a single **Summer Tanager** at Carbon Canyon Regional Park on May 21, and a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at

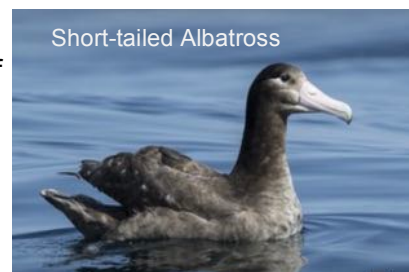
Huntington Central Park on June 13.

Summer Visitors

Summer is typically the least interesting period for vagrants in Orange County, as most individuals are well within their typical breeding ranges, defending territories and raising young. Nevertheless, certain birds, in particular overwintering waterfowl and itinerant pelagic species, typically provide some added diversity to our summer residents and breeders, and this year was no exception.

Overwintering ducks in the county included **Blue-winged Teal** at the Upper Santa Ana River, Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, and San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in late June. **Northern Shovelers** were reported at Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve from June 22 and at Mile Square Regional Park from June 23 to July 5.

Undoubtedly the most exciting bird of the summer was a **Short-tailed Albatross** that was found in Los Angeles County waters and



Short-tailed Albatross

Orange County Rarities

by Samuel Bressler



To report a RARE or UNUSUAL bird, or to receive reports from other birders about rare or unusual bird sightings here in Orange County, send an email to: OrangeCountyBirding+subscribe@groups.io

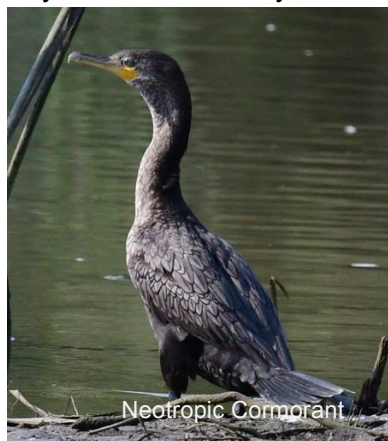
subsequently observed within Orange County waters from June 6-11. This is the first record of this species in Orange County since the 1890s, and likely represents this species' continued recovery after catastrophic hunting in its breeding colonies led to its near extinction in the 20th century.

A pair of **Black-necked Stilts** at Upper Oso Reservoir in Mission Viejo were unusually far inland for this species. A **Glaucous-winged Gull** and a **Black Tern** were both present at Bolsa Chica



Ecological Reserve on June 27, while a **Laughing Gull** was present on July 9. A trio of pelagic species off Newport Pier provided good looks for birders: birders chasing a long staying

Pigeon Guillemot that stayed from July 8 through the end of the month, also found a **Northern Fulmar** from July 13-15 and an out of season **Ancient Murrelet** on July 23. Several **Neotropic Cormorants** have been seen reliably early in the morning at San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary, and occasionally at nearby locations at other times of day. Certainly it is only a matter of time before this species becomes a regular visitor to water features throughout the region. A **Red-footed Booby** was observed on an offshore oil rig on June 12th and 16th.



While **Reddish Egrets** have become regular along the coast, particularly at Bolsa Chica, one observed at Rattlesnake Reservoir was exceptionally far inland. An **American Bittern** at Upper Newport Bay was unexpected for this time of year. **Yellow-crowned Night Herons** summered at several coastal locations throughout the county, including Upper Newport Bay, San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary, Dana Point Harbor, and Talbert Marsh.

A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** at Upper Newport Bay on June 27th was the first record since 2013. As might be expected for this highly nomadic species, this proved to be a "one hour wonder". A **Wilson's Warbler** at San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary on June 19th was presumably the same male that has summered over the past several years, waiting in vain for a mate.

Fall Migration

While the peak of songbird migration will not be for another month at the time of writing, migration of shorebirds and seabirds is already in full swing. Several unusual shorebirds have been observed in the month of July, including a **Baird's Sandpiper** at



Harriett Wieder Regional Park from July 18-23, a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary on July 28, and a **Solitary Sandpiper** at San Joaquin on July 17.

Potentially multiple **Common Terns**

were observed at Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve on July 12, 17, and 20, with a **Black Tern** joining it on July 24. A **Sabine's Gull** was observed off Newport Pier on July 23.

Although the bulk of songbird migration is not for some time, a pair of July observations deserve note. A **White-breasted Nuthatch** on July 21 at Huntington Central Park may be indicative of a small-scale irruption, similar to the one that took place in 2018-2019. Finally, A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was observed at Grijalva Park in Orange on July 16.

Photos by Don Hoechlin

except the Short-tailed Albatross

Successful Summer Programs

Trude Hurd, Project Director of Education



With permission from the Board of Directors for Sea and Sage Audubon and Irvine Ranch Water District, the Audubon Naturalists and I were able to offer 3 educational programs on a limited basis at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in July and August. We were vaccinated and wore masks and created distance between us for safety during the on-going pandemic. Success!

Nature Walk Table – Hummingbirds: On the first Saturday in July and August, we talked with 27 and 35 visitors respectively. Coordinator Linda Thomas, Susan Gibb, Gloria Markussen, and Margaret Renton helped visitors identify Anna’s and Allen’s Hummingbirds, showed real nests, and gave out children’s crafts and Hummingbirds of Orange County brochures. Tell your friends to drop by on the first Saturday in September and October as we continue the Nature Walk Table with a new nature theme!



Nature Day Camps: We met under the shade of a huge cottonwood tree for 3 half-day week-long camp programs for 43 children in July. We took daily walks, kept a daily nature journal, solved mystery bird posters, and competed in Birdathon on the last day. We learned about riparian habitat, migratory pathways, and food webs. We painted shirts, life-size American Avocets, and small wooden songbirds. It was a lot of fun!

We appreciate coordinators Deborah Brin, Carolyn Noble, and Bev Spring for their hard work plus naturalists Ann Barbour, Rudi Berkelhamer, Teresa Cullen, Jenny Golden, Chris Holland, Babs Levitan, Maya Matkin, Jay Miller, Marquita Miller, Brenda Sabin, Debbie Spurr, Stephanie Tanton, Pat Vranicar and Mary Ellen Wynn. We were grateful for our Junior

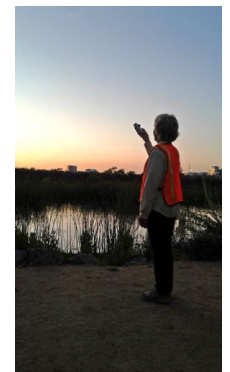
Naturalist teens: William Balducci, Cathy Ellsworth, Anna Fuerbach, Beverly Nemeth, Clark Noble, Isabelle Speakman, Luke Speakman, Kyle Okino and Julia Wong. Former camper and Humboldt State University graduate Maia Nguyen returned to help several days, and Board member and biologist Samuel Bressler talked about science careers with the campers.

One parent wrote about camp: “My son has enjoyed being around other people who love birds and wildlife as much as he does.



THANK YOU for bringing camp back this summer!” One child wrote: “I liked the nature walks because we saw a lot of different birds and we saw different parts of the marsh.” We identified 61-84 bird species total!

Summer Bats: We offered four Summer Bat Walks in August and I led the first one for 12 adults and children. We began next to shallow Pond E where we displayed two taxidermy bats to show their size and how to identify between them by wing shape and tail membrane. We then walked to two locations where we saw an ABUNDANCE of foraging Yuma Myotis bats and Mexican Free-tailed Bats. It was so exhilarating to have dozens of bats flying over us and between us. We also saw coyotes, terns and skimmers plus flocks of Canada Geese and crows coming to roost for the night at the wetland.



Many thanks to coordinator Jean Savage for her excellent organization and preparation plus Eva Lydick, Jay Matchett, Jodi Newell, Laura Osteen, Pat Vranicar, and Deb Woods for guiding visitors safely to see bats.

Photographs provided by Bettina Eastman and Trude Hurd.

Directions and Membership

Sea and Sage Audubon Society's mission is to protect birds, other wildlife, and their habitats through education, citizen science, research, and public policy.



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Remember Us in Your Will or Trust

Please remember to include "Sea and Sage Audubon Society" by name (tax ID#23-7003681) in your will or trust.

Directions to the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary (5 Riparian View, Irvine) Our entrance is from Campus Dr., not Michelson

From the San Diego Fwy (405): Exit on Jamboree, south toward Newport Beach. At the 1st signal, Michelson, turn left. Continue on Michelson (past the old entrance to the SJWS) to the 5th signal which is Harvard and turn right. Drive to University & turn right. Drive to Campus Drive & turn right. Stay in the far right lane and immediately turn right onto Riparian View which will enter the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. The entrance road is marked by a green sign. If you miss the turn and reach Carlson, turn right and go around the block again to Harvard. The sanctuary is open every day from dawn until dusk.

Audubon House

AH may be closed at the present time due to Covid-19. However the restrooms, trails, and parking lots are open. Call 949-261-7963 to see if it's open.

Your Membership Payment

Do you want to join National Audubon and Sea and Sage? Use the membership form at the bottom of this page. An Individual Membership or a Family Membership is only \$20. Sea & Sage receives 100% of a chapter generated new member's dues for the first year. Mail the form and your check - payable to National Audubon Society - to Sea and Sage Audubon, PO Box 5447, Irvine CA 92616. If you want to use a credit card for your membership payment, go online to: <http://www.audubon.org/membership> If you have questions, please contact Membership Chair, Jim Kissinger, at membership@seaandsageaudubon.org

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Please notify Jim Kissinger of your new address if you are temporarily, or permanently, moving from your current address; or, let him know if you do not want to continue to receive the Tattler. This will save us postage.

Jim Kissinger, Membership Chair
membership@seaandsageaudubon.org

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We invite you to become a member of the National Audubon Society and the Sea and Sage Audubon chapter. Members receive the AUDUBON magazine as well as the WANDERING TATTLER newsletter.

NEW MEMBERSHIP is \$20 for an individual or for a family. (The membership is good for one year.)

To join: Complete the form below & mail it along with your payment to: Sea and Sage Audubon, PO Box 5447, Irvine CA 92616

Make your check payable to: NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY. Please pay by check only; do not send cash.

Or, go online to: <http://tinyurl.com/hyeaw67> (Our chapter code is C15)

To renew membership: renew directly with National Audubon by direct mail or online: (Renewals are \$20 per year.)

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Snowy Plover on the beach

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OTHER CONTACTS

Wetlands & Wildlife Care Center – for injured or sick birds and other native wild animals in need of help (corner of Newland & PCH in HB) 714-374-5587. <http://www.wwccoc.org/>

SCHEDULE of CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

September 2021:

04 Sat	Nature Table at the SJWS	9:00 am
07 Tues	Sign up for Sylvia's Birding Skills Workshop today	
07 Tues	Conservation Committee Mtg. via Zoom	6:45 pm
12 Sun	Bird Walk at the SJWS @	8:00 am
14 Tues	Board Meeting via Zoom	7:00 pm
16 Thurs	Bolsa Chica Bird Walk @	8:00 am
17 Fri	GENERAL MEETING via Zoom	7:00 pm
19 Sun	Carbon Canyon Bird Walk @	8:00 am
21 Tues	<i>Sea & Sage Reading Group</i>	1:00 pm
26 Sun	Upper Newport Bay Bird Walk @	8:00 am
28 Tues	'4 th Tues' Conservation Lecture via Zoom	7:00 pm

October 2021:

02 Sat	Nature Table at the SJWS	9:00 am
03 Sun	Fall Pelagic Trip out of Dana Point @	6:30 am
05 Tues	Conservation Committee Mtg. via Zoom	6:45 pm
6/7 W/Th	Sylvia's Birding Skills Workshop begins via Zoom	
09 Sat	Birdability Trip @	6:45 am
10 Sun	Bird Walk at the SJWS @	8:00 am
12 Tues	Board Meeting via Zoom	7:00 pm
15 Fri	GENERAL MEETING via Zoom	7:00 pm
17 Sun	Anaheim Coves Park Bird Walk @	8:00 am
19 Tues	<i>Sea & Sage Reading Group</i>	1:00 pm
26 Tues	'4 th Tues' Conservation Lecture via Zoom	7:00 pm
00 Sat	<i>Pancake Breakfast CANCELLED due to pandemic</i>	
31 Sun	Upper Newport Bay Bird Walk @	8:00 am